



HAMPDEN TOWN COUNCIL  
HAMPDEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
MINUTES

MONDAY

JULY 6, 2021

6:00 P.M.

*In Attendance:*

*Mayor Shelby Wright  
Councilor Eric Jarvi  
Councilor Mark Cormier  
Councilor Ivan McPike  
Councilor Allen Esposito  
Councilor Peter Erickson  
Councilor Christine Cubberley, Remotely*

*Paula Scott, Town Manager  
Victor Smith, Public Works Director  
Darcey Peakall, Pool Director-Remotely*

*Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.*

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

*Mayor Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.*

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**Motion:** *Councilor McPike moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilor Esposito.  
Vote 7-0*

*Resolution: 2021 – 124*

C. CONSENT AGENDA

**Motion:** *Councilor Jarvi moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilor Esposito. Vote 7-0*

*Resolution: 2021 – 125*

1. SIGNATURES

2. COUNCIL MINUTES

- a. 06/14/21 Council Workshop Meeting
- b. 06/21/2021 Council Meeting

3. COMMUNICATIONS

4. COMMITTEE MINUTES

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

E. POLICY AGENDA

Note: Council will take a five-minute recess at 8:00 p.m.

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1. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Proposed Amendments to the Hampden Fees Ordinance, Article 8 Pool.

**Motion:** *Councilor McPike moved to open the public hearing for the Hampden Fees Ordinance, Article 8 Pool, seconded by Councilor Esposito. Vote 7-0*

Resolution: 2021 – 126

**Motion:** *Councilor McPike made a motion to come out of public hearing, seconded by Councilor Esposito. Vote 7-0*

Resolution: 2021 – 127

**Motion:** *Councilor Jarvi moved adoption of the Amended Hampden Fees Ordinance Article 8 Pool as presented, seconded by Councilor McPike. Vote 7-0*

Resolution: 2021 - 128

- b. Proposed amendments to the Hampden Fees Ordinance, Article 2.9.1. Sewer.

**Motion:** *Councilor McPike moved to go into public hearing, seconded by Councilor Esposito. Vote 7-0*

Resolution: 2021 – 129

**Motion:** *Councilor McPike made a motion to come out of public hearing, seconded by Councilor Esposito. Vote 7-0*

Resolution: 2021 – 130

**Motion:** *Councilor McPike made a motion to accept the Hampden Fees Ordinance Article 2.9.1 Sewer, seconded by Councilor Jarvi. Vote 6-1*

Resolution: 2021 - 131

3. NOMINATIONS – APPOINTMENTS – ELECTIONS

- a. Town Council's confirmation of annual appointment of designated Town of Hampden Officials – pursuant to Title 30-A section 2526(2).

**Motion:** *Councilor McPike made a motion to approve the annual appointment of designated Town of Hampden Officials pursuant to Title 30-A section 2526(2), seconded by Councilor Jarvi. Vote 7-0*

Resolution: 2021 - 132

Note: Council will take a five-minute recess at 8:00 p.m.

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F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Council Order 2021-02 Prohibiting The Use Of Certain Trailers At The Hampden Transfer Station.

*Mayor Wright read the Order. "It Is Ordered, that the Hampden Town Council, by their vote, shall set the policy to allow trailers into the Transfer Station but mandate that dump trailers be off loaded by hand. The number of trailers of any kind within the Transfer Station shall be at the discretion of the Director of Public Works."*

**Motion:** Councilor McPike made a motion to adopt Order 2021-02 Prohibiting the Use of Certain Trailers at the Hampden Transfer Station, seconded by Councilor Cormier. Vote 7-0

*Resolution: 2021 - 133*

H. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Council Order 2021-03 Permitting Disbursement of Employee Wages and State Fees -annual policy renewal.

**Motion:** Councilor McPike made a motion to accept Council Order 2021-03 disbursing wages and payment of state fees, seconded by Councilor Cubberley. Vote 7-0

*Councilor Esposito will be the primary signer of the employment wage payroll and Mayor Wright and Councilor Jarvi will be alternates.*

*Resolution: 2021 - 134*

- b. Council Order 2021-04 Authorizing The Application Of Property Tax Payments – annual policy renewal.

**Motion:** Councilor Jarvi pursuant to Title 36 MRSA section 506 and 906 moved Council adopt Council Order 2021-04 Authorizing the Application of Property Tax Payments, seconded by Councilor McPike. Vote 6-1

*Resolution: 2021 - 135*

- c. Council Order 2021-05 Establishing Procedures For The Receipt Of Gifts, Donations and Funds From Outside Sources – annual policy renewal.

**Motion:** Councilor McPike made a motion to accept Order 2021-05 pursuant to Title 30-A MRSA subsection 5652 and 5655 to accept gifts, seconded by Councilor Jarvi. Vote 7-0

*Resolution: 2021 - 136*

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- d. Council Order 2021-06 Authorizing The Establishment Of A Tax Club For Tax Year 2022  
- requested by Wanda Libbey, Tax Collector.

*Town Manager Scott explained that the Tax Club allows the Tax Collector to enter into a payment agreement with a property tax payer for a period of 10 months and they have a set amount that they have to pay every single month with no interest charged. If the tax payer becomes late they become subject to interest and they are no longer able to stay in the tax club.*

**Motion:** Councilor Jarvi pursuant to Title 36, MRSA section 505 and 506 moved Council adopt Council Order 2021-06 Authorizing the Establishment of a Tax Club for 2022 taxes, seconded by Councilor Esposito. Vote 7-0

*Resolution: 2021 – 137*

- e. Council determination of rate of interest to be applied to delinquent tax payments – pursuant to Title 36 MRSA Section 505.4.

*Town Manager Scott explained that every year the State Treasurer's Office puts out a listing of the new maximum rate for interest and this year the lowest that we can go is 4% but we can go up to 6%. She recommends that the payment that we pay for overpayments would be 2% and set the interest rate for delinquent taxes at the rate of 6%.*

**Motion:** Councilor McPike made a motion to apply an interest rate of 6% on delinquent tax payments Title 36 MRSA section 505.4, seconded by Councilor Cubberley. Vote taken with amendment of changing 6% to 4% on both billable and payable. Vote 3-4 motion fails.

*Resolution: 2021 - 139*

**Motion:** Councilor Erickson moved to amend the motion to have both billable and payable at 4%, seconded by Councilor Cormier. Vote 5-2

*Resolution: 2021 – 138*

*Town Manager Scott explained that the amount of interest rate that we would have to pay on abated and overpaid taxes can be no less than the highest rate recommended, lowered by four. That would be the 2 % that she recommended. The former Council agreed last year, that interest on taxes is a revenue source and to offset your expenses. The philosophy of previous Council was to charge the higher amount and pay the lower amount.*

**Motion:** Councilor McPike made a motion to approve an amount of 6% for delinquent tax payment pursuant to Title 36 MRSA section 505.4, seconded by Councilor Jarvi. Vote 4-3

*Resolution: 2021 - 140*

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- f. Council determination of rate of interest to be applied to be paid on overpaid and abated taxes – *pursuant to Title 36 MRSA Section 506-A*

**Motion:** *Councilor McPike made a motion to apply the interest rate of 2% to be paid on overpaid and abated taxes pursuant to Title 36 MRSA section 506-A, seconded by Councilor Jarvi. Vote 3-4*

*Resolution: 2021 – 141*

**Motion:** *Councilor Cubberley made a motion to raise the interest rate for overpayment of taxes to 3%, with no second motion fails.*

**Motion:** *Councilor Cormier moved to pay the interest on overpaid taxes at 4%, seconded by Councilor Cubberley.*

**Motion:** *Councilor Esposito moved to table this item to get information on how many overpayments we get in a year. Vote 6-1*

*Resolution 2021 - 142*

- g. Setting of the tax due dates.

**Motion:** *Councilor Jarvi moved Council set the tax due dates for FY22 taxes as October 6, 2021 and April 6, 2022, seconded by Councilor McPike. Vote 7-0*

*Resolution: 2021 - 143*

- h. Council award of the design for the Manning Mill and Sawyer Road bridges, *requested by Victor Smith, Public Works Director.*

*Victor Smith Public Works Director presented an overview of the proposals for the design of the Manning Mill and Sawyer Road Bridges and recommended awarding the bid to the lowest bidder, TY Lin.*

**Motion:** *Councilor McPike made a motion to accept the proposal for the bridge design Engineering services for Manning Mill Bridge and Sawyer Road Bridge from TY Lin, seconded by Councilor Cubberley. Vote 7-0*

*Resolution: 2021 – 144*

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I. MANAGER'S REPORT

*I don't have a whole lot to report tonight other than just to inform everyone that we did close our fiscal year on June 30 and everything came in balanced without having to have the auditor assist us in that. I want to thank the finance department and congratulate them for such a job well done, as well as all the staff. There's a lot of money that goes across this counter on a daily basis and to have everything come out so well just speaks to how good of a job that they all do. We do have our audit tentatively scheduled for some time in October. I also want to let the council know that we were able, at the close of books, to transfer \$500,000 from the sewer department to the general fund to pay back some of the money that the sewer department has owed the general fund. I also want to just let everyone know that now that the 4th of July Holiday is over, Victor and I will be reaching out to some of the interested parties with regard to establishing the committee to discuss the Swap Shop and how we need to handle that going forward, so I haven't forgotten about that and we will be making contact. There are some that have asked to be involved and we will be reaching out. That's really all I have to say for tonight.*

J. COUNCILOR'S COMMENTS

Councilor Cubberley - *No comment.*

Councilor Cormier – *No comment.*

Councilor McPike - *I'd just like to make some comments on the budget that was passed at the last meeting. I'd like to express my gratitude to the town manager and the staff and particularly the department heads for the budget that was put forward. In seven years of budget hearings I believe this is one of the best budgets that I've seen come in, had the less conflicts and showed some real concise areas, which was hit and and ratified to make things better. I think some of the results that we may not be aware of and perhaps the public is not aware of is that the fiscal year 21 budget for the Town of Hampden was \$11,996,638 and the fiscal 22 year budget was \$11,431,632 which means that we the town reduced our budget by 4.71% or \$565,000. That's not reducing increases, that's reducing the actual budget itself and I think sometimes that doesn't get out is that it's very difficult, that once you get something in government, you have a tendency to keep it. This year the Town Manager and the Department Heads proved that we could do with less and still run efficiently. In controversy to that, the county last year our assessment was \$1,002,527.00 and this year it was \$1,141,446.00 or up 13.86% and sitting on that budget committee, I can tell you that part of the reason for that was a huge increase in 911 update that they had to do because as IT will tell you, this was probably 15 years old and was not of very use anymore. So that was one of the big things, they knew it was coming and it did come. School, last year Hampden's share of the school was \$7,260,669.00 and this year Hampdens share of the school was \$7,661,727.00 or 3.11% increase or \$401,000 increase. The total school increase of RSU 32 was a little over 900,000, other town's absorbed the rest, that was just Hampden's share. So, we passed this we went through it and looked at it, but think it is pertinent that the public understand that this is one of the finest years I've seen on the town of Hampdens budget and I take my hat off and I congratulate the staff and I congratulate the Town Manager for what I consider a job well done. Thank you.*

Councilor Esposito – *Drink water stay hydrated.*

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Councilor Esposito – *Thank you for sharing that Ivan and good night Hampden.*

*Councilor Jarvi - I would like to take this opportunity to concur with Councilor McPike. I think the budget process was very thorough and was very transparent until we got to the last night. I have invented a new term for last minute budget additions. I'm going to call them from here on out pork cup additions instead of pork barrel additions. I still maintain as I did then that I think we could have had a deliberative process to consider those even as a result of public hearing. But it went through and I'm happy it went through and I support the budget as passed. For the benefit of the public I think it's also important to note that next Monday's workshop tentatively on the agenda has a report on the pine tree landfill, and potential renaming of the Grist Mill Bridge as agenda items. There might be some other things, but for the benefit of the public, I think those are two very important items up for discussion and the report on the pine tree landfill, in particular, is long overdue, and I would make sure the public participates in that if they have an interest. Goodnight, Hampden. Good night Hampden.*

Councilor Wright – *Good night Hampden.*

Councilor McPike – *Just one more thing. Thursday night at four o'clock, there is a meeting here with axiom on fiber optic cable, and the axiom rep will be here and for some of the people who are who are old like I am who don't understand all that stuff, it's a chance to ask him directly the questions of what you expect and what you're afraid of and what you think is going to happen and cost that could be incurred with that. So, I would ask everyone if they want to come here Thursday night at four, in the council chambers, to discuss that and it's open to the public. Thank you.*

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405 (6)(A) – Personnel Matters

**Motion:** *Councilor McPike made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. section 405 (6)(A) for personnel matters to include the Town Manager, seconded by Councilor Esposito. Councilor Cubberley left the meeting at this time. Vote by roll call 5-1.*

*Resolution: 2021 – 145*

*Executive session entered at 6:54 p.m.*

L. ADJOURNMENT

*Meeting adjourned after executive session with no votes taken.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Gayle C. Decker, Town Clerk*

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